

# Finding the Next Generation:

Looking for the Parents of Maren Jensdatter

A Case Study in Witness Research

## Uses of Witness Research

- Witness research is a great strategy to use when all other strategies have failed.
- Witness strategy can be used not only to find the next generation, but also siblings of parents, aunts, uncles, and other relatives.

## Case Study: Maren Jensdatter

### Previous Research

- The main objective of the research was to find the birth information and parents of *Maren Jensdatter*.
- After thorough research, it was determined that a traditional approach to finding her parents would prove too difficult.
- Witness research is the next best strategy.

# Step 1: Gathering What We Know...

Before any research can be done, a detailed list of what is known must be compiled...

## Maren Jensdatter

- Born around 1770
- Died 16 January 1855 in Øland, Hjørring, Denmark

## Husband: Christen Jensen Tranum

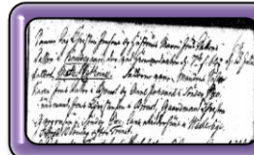
- Born around 1769
- Death 10 April 1841 in Øland

Lived their life on  
Knudegård, Øland  
parish, Hjørring county

Married around 1797

# What We Know About Their children...

○ Each birth record of each child must be gathered for successful witness research. You never know what valuable clues may be hiding with one child and not the other.



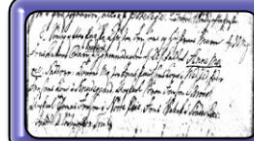
Mette Cathrine Christensdatter

• Christened 7 July 1798



Maren Christensdatter

• Christened 14 April 1800



Anne Marie Christensdatter

• Christened 6 May 1802



Karen Christensdatter

• Christened 28 Aug 1804



Jens Christensen Tranum

• Christened 1 March 1807



Kristen Christensen

• Christened 7 Jan 1810



Ane Johanne Christensdatter

• Christened 18 May 1812

# Gathering the Witnesses

- Once all of the known information is gathered, the next step is to extract the information concerning the witnesses from the birth records of the children.
- The main goal is to search for clues that may lead to the next generation.
- The following two pages are the extracted information from *Maren's* childrens' birth records.

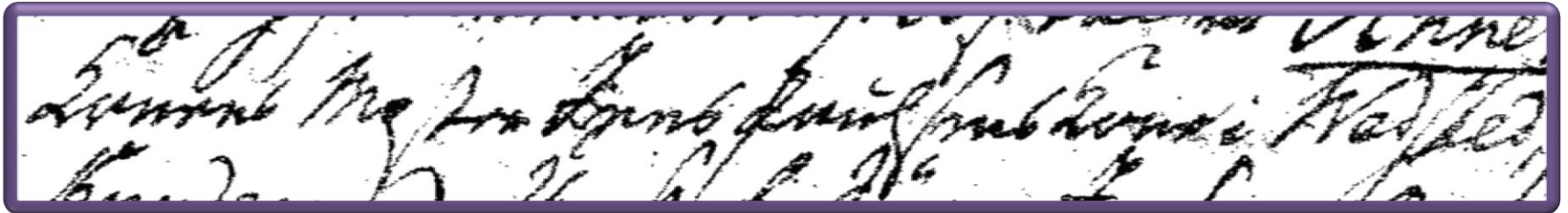
	Mette Cathrine, 1798	Maren, 1800	Anne Marie, 1802	Karen, 1804	Jens, 1807	Kristen, 1810	Ane Johanne, 1812
Karen Jensdatter	In Brovst, Father's sister						
Anne Johanne	In Sønder Øxe, Father's sister						
Jens Christensen	Huusmand in Brovst			from Nørre Øxe			
Christen Greversen	Farmer in Sønder Øxe						
Anne Feddersen?	In Westerbye						
Christen Simonsen and Wife		In Sønder Øxe		In Sønder Øxe	In Sønder Øxe	In Sønder Øxe	In Sønder Øxe
Peder Jensen and wife		In Knudegård	In Knudegård	In Knudegård	In Knudegård	In Knudegård	In Knudegård
Jens Skebæk		In Sønder Øxe	In Sønder Øxe				
Thomas Jensen and wife		from Nørre Øxe	from Nørre Øxe		Of Nørre Øxe		
Jens Paulsens wife			In Wedsted, the mother's aunt				
Søren Jensen			In Brovst				

	Mette Cathrine, 1798	Maren, 1800	Anne Marie, 1802	Karen, 1804	Jens, 1807	Kristen, 1810	Ane Johanne, 1812
Kristen Jensen					In Sønder Øxe		
Jens Vogensens daughter						In Brovst	
Peder Sørensen						Farmer on Øland	
Bachelor Simonsen						From Sønder Øxe	
Søren Jeppesens daughter							From Østerbye, carried the child
Mette Marie							x
Gregers Pedersen							Of Westerbye



## Step 2: Analysis ~ One obvious relative

After extracting the information of the witnesses, we find one obvious witness that could help in finding *Maren's* parents...



Jens  
Paulsen's  
wife

- Transliteration: "Konens Moster Jens Paulsen's kone i Wedsted"
- *Konens Moster* = The wife's mother's sister (Maren's aunt)
- From Wedsted


If we research *Maren's* aunt, we may be able to find *Maren's* parents.  
In order to effectively research *Maren's* aunt, two questions must be answered:

- What is *Jens Paulsen's* wife's name?
- Where is Wedsted?

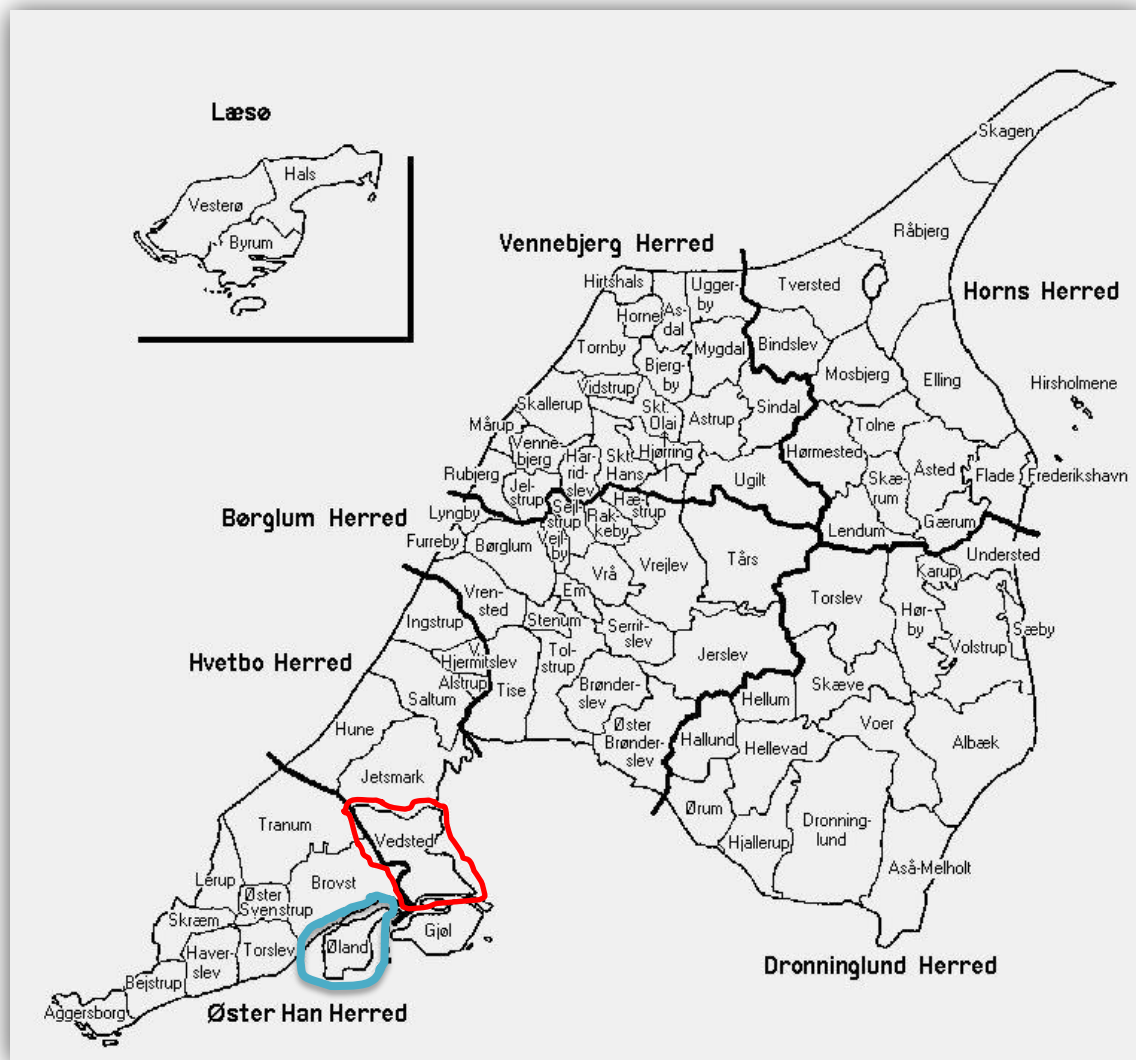
# Step 3: Researching Jens Paulsen's wife

○The first step in researching *Jens Paulsen's* wife is to find her name. The easiest way to do this, is to search the closest-to-date census. Since she was a witness in 1802, the closest census would be 1801.

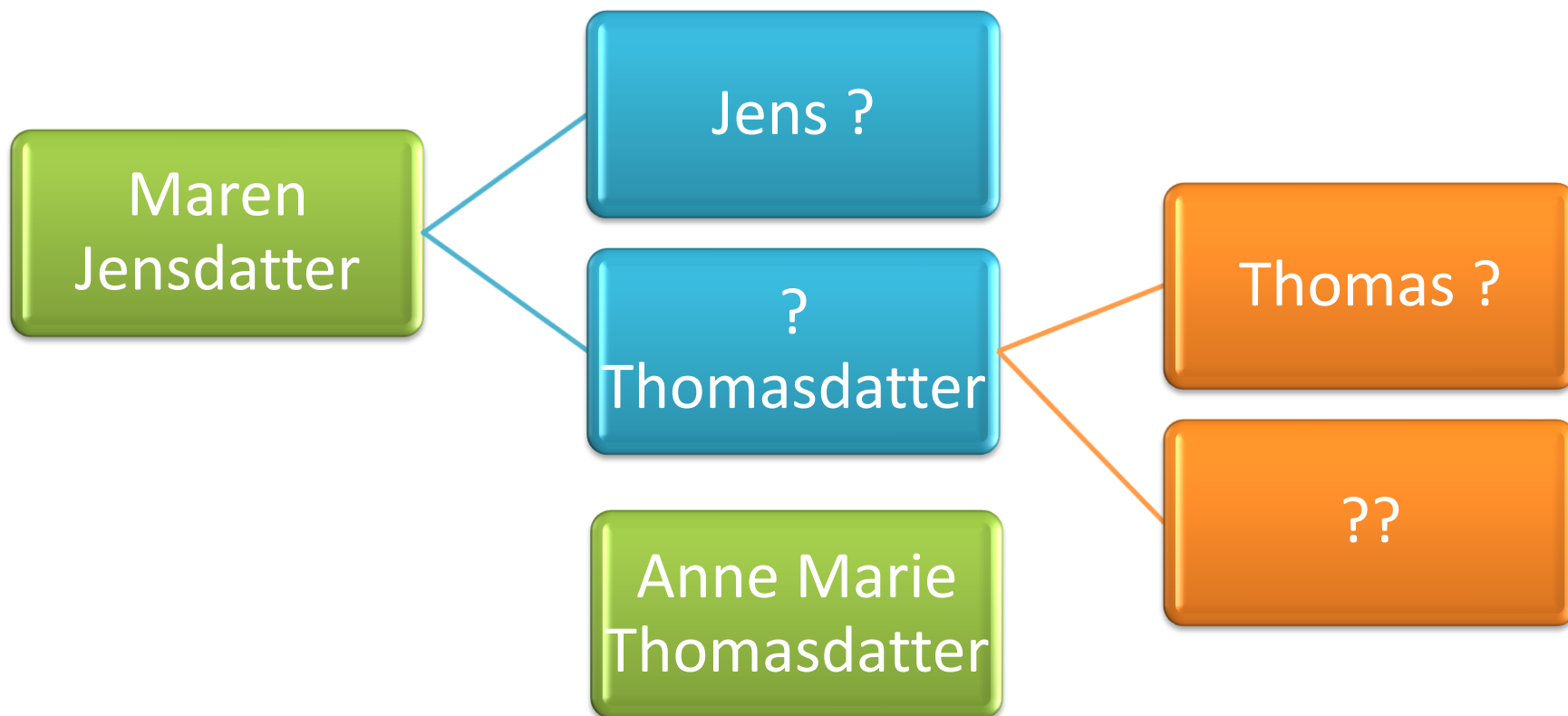
○Using the *Danish Demographical Database* ([www.ddd.dda.dk](http://www.ddd.dda.dk)), the only *Jens Paulsen* living in “Wedsted” is married to *Ane Marie Thomasdatter*.

 <b>STATENS ARKIVER</b> DANSK DATA ARKIV					
Samtlige personer i husstanden					
Hjørring, Hvetbo, Aaby, Wedsted, , Nr. 7, FT-1801, C0663					
Til resultatet		Til søgesiden			
Navn:	Alder:	Civilstand:	Stilling i husstanden:	Erhverv:	Fødested:
Jens Poulsen	63	Gift	Huusbonde	Bonde og Gaardbeoer	
Ane Marie Thomasdatter	55	Gift	hans Kone		
Søren Jensen	25	Ugift	deres Barn	National Soldat	
Thomas Jensen	13	Ugift	deres Barn		
Inger Marie Jensdatter	20	Ugift	deres Barn		
Ane Kirstine Jensdatter	10	Ugift	deres Barn		
Mourits Sørensen	36	Gift	Tienestefolk		
Jacob Jensen	21	Ugift	Tienestefolk		
Niels Jensen	19	Ugift	Tienestefolk		
Mette Ivarsdatter	30	Ugift	Tienestefolk		

- In order to prove that *Anne Marie Thomasdatter* is the correct “Jens Paulsen’s wife” a map needs to be consulted.
- According to the map, *Wedsted*, or *Vedsted*, is right next to Maren Jensdatter’s residence on *Øland*.
- Because Vedsted is right next to Øland it is very probable that *Anne Marie Thomasdatter* is *Maren Jensdatter’s* aunt.



- If Anne Marie Thomasdatter is *Maren Jensdatter's* aunt, then *Maren's* mother is a *Thomasdatter* and her maternal grandfather's first name is *Thomas*.



- The next step in the research, is to find the marriage record of *Jens Paulsen* and *Anne Marie Thomasdatter*. The marriage record will hopefully show the residence of *Anne Marie Thomasdatter*, and possibly her father's name.
- Research shows no marriage record of *Anne Marie Thomasdatter* and *Jens Paulsen* in Vedsted parish.
- The marriage index on *FamilySearch* gives only one possibility in the entire county of Hjørring. The marriage is in *Lerup* parish which is close to both *Øland* and *Vedsted*.

RECORDS
GENEALOGIES
CATALOG
BOOKS
WIKI

### Refine your search

First Names  
Jens

Last Names  
Poulsen

Race  
Any

**Restrict records by:**  
Batch Number  
Film Number

**Search with a life event:**  
Birth  
Marriage

**Search with a relationship:**  
Spouse's First Names  
Anne Marie  
Spouse's Last Names  
Thomasdatter  
Parents

☐ Match all terms exactly

**Search** **Reset**

## Denmark, Marriages, 1635-1916

1-20 of 304 results for >Name: **Jens Poulsen**, Spouse Name: **Anne Marie Thomasdatter**

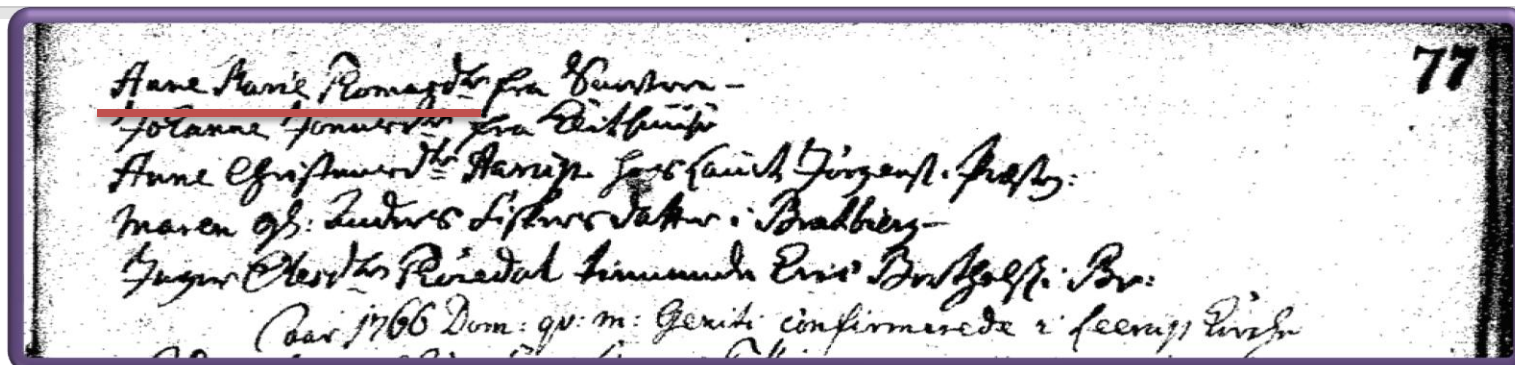
Number of results to show: 20 50 75

Name	Events	Relationships	Pre
Jens Poulsen Denmark, Marriages, 1635-1916	marriage: 14 June 1772 Lerup, Hjørring, Denmark	spouse: Anne Marie Thomasdr	
Jens Paulsen Denmark, Marriages, 1635-1916	birth: 1782 marriage: 6 October 1843 Tandslet, Sønderborg, Denmark	spouse: Marie Cathrine Thomsen	
Hans Poulsen Denmark, Marriages, 1635-1916	birth: 24 June 1835 marriage: 3 May 1869 Jels, Haderslev, Denmark	father: Poul Pedersen mother: Abelone Poulsdr Marie Kjestine Thomsen other: Niels Thomsen, Maren Dideriksdtr	
Jens Poulsen Denmark, Marriages, 1635-1916	birth: 1826 marriage: 4 March 1853 Havnelev, Praesto, Denmark	spouse: Maren Thomassen	





- y - d - e



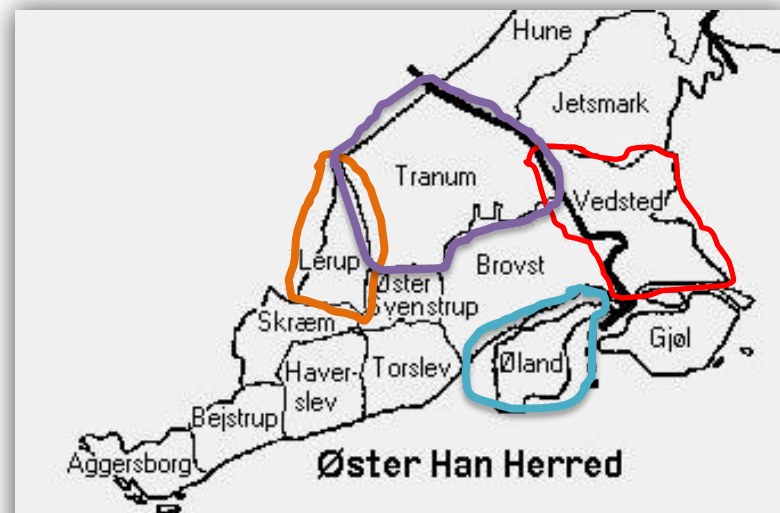
- If *Anne Marie* truly is from *Lerup* parish, then she should have been confirmed in *Lerup*. According to the 1801 census, *Anne Marie* was 55 years old at the time the census was taken. This means that she would have been born around 1746. As confirmation occurred at age 14, she would have been confirmed around 1760.
- A search in the confirmation records of *Lerup* parish shows an *Anne Marie Thomasdatter* from *Snevre* confirmed in 1765.
- According to the *FamilySearch* Wiki, there is not a *Snevre* in *Lerup* parish, but there is one in the neighboring parish of *Tranum*. Other sources reveal that *Tranum* parish is an annex parish to *Lerup* parish.

## Tranum Parish, Hjørring, Denmark

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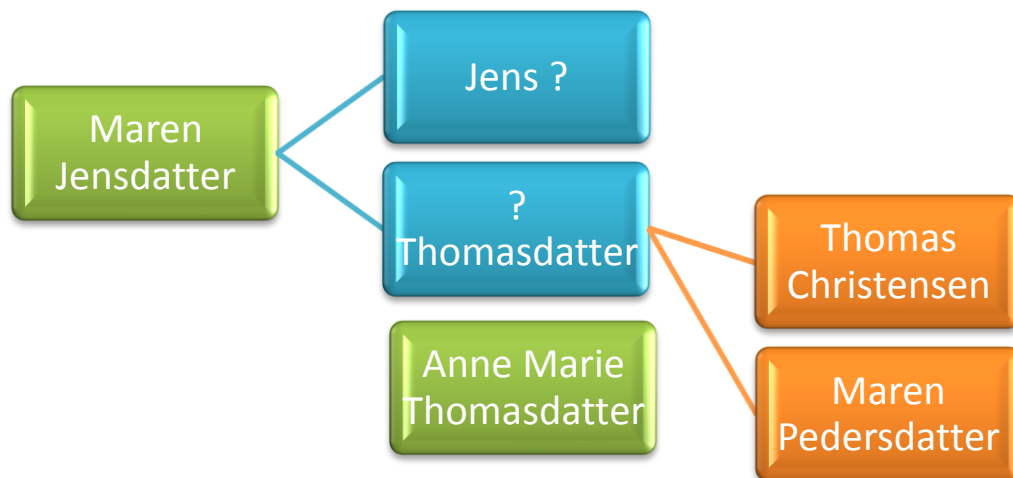
Denmark > Hjørring > Tranum

Skovsgaard, Snevre, Stenkol, Store Bratbjerg, Store Vande, Strandgaard, Studegrøften, Styvelet, Sønder Bratbjerg,



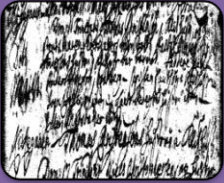
Dom: 17 p. 11  
Thomas Christensen, af Gisthus, Maren Pedersdatter born  
Anne Marie i Snevre i Klithuse. Født af Thomas Marie. Født i  
 Snevre i Snevre. Født i Snevre. Født i Snevre. Født i Snevre.  
 Født i Snevre. Født i Snevre. Født i Snevre. Født i Snevre.  
 Født i Snevre. Født i Snevre. Født i Snevre. Født i Snevre.  
 Dom: 19

- A search in the *Tranum* parish birth records gives one *Anne Marie Thomasdatter* born in 1748.
- The birth record states that the family was living in “Snevre in Klithuse.” The place of residence in the birth record corresponds with the confirmation and marriage records and proves that this *Anne Marie Thomasdatter* is the same that married *Jens Poulsen*.
- The birth record states that *Anne Marie*’s parents are *Thomas Christensen* and *Maren Pedersdatter*.



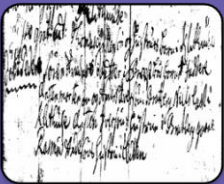


## Step 4: Determining Who is Maren Jensdatter's Mother



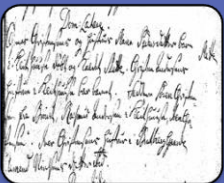
### Maren Thomasdatter

- Born in Klithuse
- Christened 28 August 1740



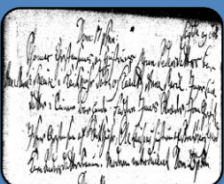
### Peder Thomsen

- Born in Klithuse
- Christened 28 January 1742



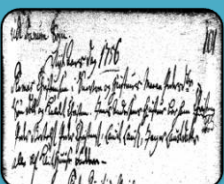
### Mette Thomasdatter

- Born in Klithuse
- Christened 28 March 1745



### Anne Marie Thomasdatter

- Born in Snevre in Klithuse
- Christened 6 October 1748



### Christen Thomsen

- Born in Snevre (died soon after the christening)
- Christened 1 Jan 1756

- Proving the parentage of *Maren's* aunt, *Anne Marie*, brings us one step closer to *Maren's* parentage.
- The first step in determining *Maren's* mother is to find all of the siblings of *Anne Marie*.
- After thorough research, five children of *Thomas Christensen* and *Maren Pedersdatter* were found.
- There are two daughters that are potential mothers to *Maren Jensdatter*. *Maren Thomasdatter* and *Mette Thomasdatter*

- In order to narrow down which daughter is the mother of *Maren Jensdatter*, the first step is to see if either daughter died as infants.
- Research in the death records up to 1760 returns no results.
- Next, a search in the confirmation records of *Tranum* show *Maren Thomasdatter's* confirmation in 1757 and *Mette Thomasdatter's* confirmation in 1761.

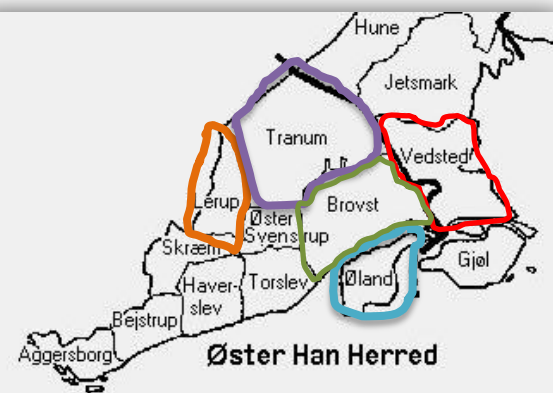
1757 confirmation  
 Anders Jørgensen Søren Sørensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
 Jørgen Mortensen i Sund  
 Jørgen Anders Christensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
 Jørgen Jørgensen Sørensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
 Niels Mortensen Niels Christensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
 Jørgen Jørgensen Sørensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
 Maren Jørgensen Sørensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
 Anne Ole Gregersen Sørensen Br. Røz  
Maren Sørensen i Sund  
 Br. Røz i Sund

Confirmation 1761 Ann. gen.  
 Ole Niels Christensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
 Jørgen Sørensen Sørensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
 Niels Sørensen Sørensen Sørensen Br. Røz  
Maren Sørensen i Sund  
 Jørgen Sørensen Sørensen Sørensen Br. Røz

- Since both *Maren* and *Mette* survived to their confirmation, the next step is to find their marriage. Marriages usually occurred in the parish of the bride, so *Tranum* parish was the first parish searched.
- The marriage records for both *Maren* and *Mette* were found in Tranum parish.
  - *Maren* married *Berent Nielsen* (from Nørøxe, Brovst parish) on 12 August 1767
  - *Mette* married *Jens Christensen* (from Nørøxe, Brovst parish) on 10 October 1769
- Because *Maren Jensdatter's* patronymic means "the daughter of Jens" it is more likely that *Mette* and *Jens Christensen* are the parents of *Maren*.
- Because *Jens Christensen* is from *Brovst* parish, it is possible that *Maren Jensdatter* could have been born in either *Tranum* or *Brovst* parish.

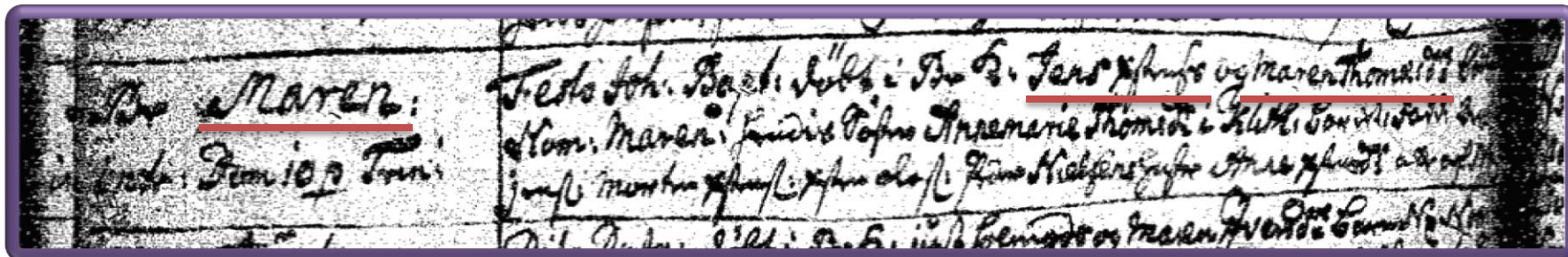
Christenelse af *Beihjælp* Holsten  
 Onsdagen d. 12 Augusti Berent Nielsen fra Nørøxe og Maren  
Pomst af *Beihjælp* Holsten. Den 20de Augusti -  
 1767. Den 15de. Min. Niels Laurits af *Brabjerg* og Anne Nielsen fra *Tranum*.

Christenelse i *Brabjerg* Holsten -  
 Onsdagen d. 10de October Jens Christensen fra Nørøxe og Mette  
Pomst af *Beihjælp* Holsten -  
 1769. Den 10de. Min. Niels Laurits af *Brabjerg* og Anne Nielsen fra *Tranum*.





- After searching both *Tranum* and *Brovst* parishes, the birth record of *Maren Jensdatter* was found in *Brovst* parish in 1770.



- With the birth record found, we now know that *Jens Christensen* and *Mette Thomasdatter* are *Maren's* parents and the original objective of discovering her birth information and parentage is complete.

